



# THE SMOKE SIGNAL

## Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services

Summer, 2003

### NEW EQUIPMENT AND APPARATUS ON THE WAY!

For those of you who did not know, Rescue 16 and Rescue 1 have been replaced in the past 8 months.

Rescue 16 arrived in late 2002, and Rescue 1 was not far behind, arriving Spring. The 2 trucks are identical, and were built by EVI in Palm Beach, Florida on an International 4400 chassis. Functionality and comfort were considerations in their purchases. They have larger crew compartments with air conditioning.

Two more rescue vehicles have been approved for purchase, and will be similar to these, with modifications made from suggestions by field personnel. By adding newer vehicles to the fleet, the older apparatus can be moved



Pictured above: Rescue 16 in front of Fire Administration Headquarters.

to reserve status or may be assigned to stations with lighter use, thus maximizing their useful service life.

Other recent Cobb Board of Commissioners agenda items that have been approved include:

Appropriation of \$180,000 to upgrade 10 of the oldest outdoor warning sirens from the old low band system to the new, more reliable 800 MHz system. With this appropriation, only 25 of the older sirens remain in the system, and are scheduled for replacement over the next two years.

Authorization for the purchase of Deccan 1710 CAD Analyst and 1710 ADAM computer software to assist Cobb Fire to analyze service delivery relative to NFPA 1710.

Authorization for the purchase of 76 new Motorola portable radios. This will enable every firefighter on a scene to have communications capabilities.

Approval for the appropriation of \$260,000 to outfit reserve apparatus with equipment. Four reserve engines, one reserve rescue vehicle, and one

reserve Battalion Chief's car will be outfitted and ready to roll.

Approval of the position of a CEMA supervisor to be assigned to the Emergency Operations Center. This position will work directly with the CEMA staff, assist in the development of emergency operations plans, and help "ramp up" CEMA activities.



Pictured above:  
The new Motorola XTS-5000 portable radio being purchased by Cobb Fire. These portables will be encased in a yellow, ruggedized outer housing. (photo courtesy of Motorola)

Approval of a Fire Lieutenant position to act as an Adjutant to Headquarters Operations.

Appropriation of funds to purchase a 2003 Sutphen Custom 70-foot Platform Ladder Truck to replace a 1968 model reserve ladder. This truck has arrived and will be in service soon.

The authorization to purchase twelve engines, one more 100-foot ladder truck, and two more rescue vehicles already mentioned in this article. The oldest, least dependable first-line trucks will move to reserve status or be surplused, with some trucks possibly moved to other stations.

The appropriation of \$90,000 to conduct repair and renovation projects at various fire stations.

The approval of funds to enter into contractual agreements with CWH Management Solutions to revalidate the entry level tests for Firefighter I applicants, and conduct job analyses for engineer, lieutenant, and captain ranks.

With the approval of these purchases, the County Manager and Board of Commissioners continue to support our top priorities: safety, efficiency, and employee development.

#### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

**Equipment & Apparatus Update**

**Personnel News**

**CISM**

**Special Announcements**



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Complimentary copies are distributed to all Cobb Fire and Public Safety facilities, and placed under the Fire Administration Common files under "Smoke Signal".

*This issue will also be uploaded to our website: [www.cobbfire.org](http://www.cobbfire.org)*

The Smoke Signal is for employees and friends of Cobb Fire. If you would like to see a subject covered in future issues or would like to submit items for possible future publication, please forward to the Fire Administration Staff.

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*Ellen Black  
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**Many Thanks To:**

*Craig Ford, Communications  
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Cobb County Print Shop  
Tony Thompson, Cobb Fire I.S.*

**COBB FIRE IS A DEPARTMENT OF  
COBB COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

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Tim Lee, District 3 Commissioner  
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*Cobb County...Expect the Best!*

## PERSONNEL CORNER

### LATERAL ENTRY ACADEMY

On February 14, there were 17 seventeen recruits who graduated from an abbreviated fire academy. These folks were already certified firefighters, having experience at other agencies in Georgia. If you have not already done so, please welcome these folks to Cobb Fire!

*Drew Bell  
Aaron Bennett  
Brent Busby  
Tara Byrd  
Tom Covington  
David Laurence Dwyer  
Brian Gibson  
Sean Gray  
Justin Green  
David Hinton  
Kevin Johnson  
Richie Kenyon  
Frankie Matthews  
Sara McKenna  
Karen Patterson  
Larry Richardson  
Ryan Wallace*

The following CCFES personnel have been activated by their respective military units over the past several months, and deployed to various locations around the world. When you get a chance, please thank them for making a huge personal sacrifice and serving our Country!

*Lt. Willie Tanks  
Engr. Russ Burnette  
Engr. Nate Thomas  
Engr. Harold Phillips  
FFIII Charles  
Blackwell  
FFII Rich Ferguson  
FFII Jeff Few  
FFII David Hopkins  
FFII Ellis Jones*

### DID YOU KNOW?

After an on-site assessment in March of the Cobb Emergency Management Agency (CEMA), the National Weather Service has designated Cobb County as a "Storm Ready" community. The NWS committee reviewed Cobb's preparedness in the event of severe weather, the ability to receive and disseminate information as a 24-hour-a-day operation, the outdoor warning system, and public education programs.

### IN MEMORIAM:

Cobb Fire mourns the recent passing of two of their own:

On April 6, retired Battalion Chief Dennis Arrington passed away after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

As a Cobb County native, Dennis, 58, grew up around Austell and graduated from South Cobb High School.

Dennis played an integral part in the development of several CCFES initiatives, including the Trench Rescue, Haz Mat, Stress Debriefing, and Peer Counseling Teams. He also helped establish the Cobb County Firefighters' Benevolent and Death Benefit Funds.

After 29 years with the department, he retired in 2000. He is survived by his wife, retired Cobb Fire Lt. Nancy Arrington, son, Brian, and daughter, Melanie.

On June 2, Lt. Mike Vickery was killed in a tragic off-duty accident while cutting a tree in Acworth. Mike was a 22-year veteran of Cobb Fire, assigned to "A" Shift at Station 25 on Trickum Road.



Pictured above:

Lt. Mike Vickery's bunker gear rests on Engine 25.

Less than 25% of Georgia counties have met the NWS requirements for this designation, making this a lofty accomplishment. The Cobb Board of Commissioners and CEMA representatives were presented the certificate of designation at the June 10 BOC meeting.



Lt. Vickery was a native of Virginia, and prior to joining Cobb Fire, spent nine years in the Marine Corps. He is survived by his wife, Susan, and two sons, Michael and Ryan. Mike was 51 years old.

These are two friends who will be truly missed.

### WELCOME!

The Cobb County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously this Spring to appoint Gary Michael "Mickey" Lloyd as Cobb Public Safety Director. He replaces James Arrowood, who retired on January 1, and now holds the position of Cobb Schools Safety and Security Director.

A native of Thomaston, Georgia, Director Lloyd retired from the City of Atlanta Police Department after 29 years of service, holding the rank of Deputy Chief. He comes to Cobb DPS after serving two years with the State of Georgia DPS, rising to the position of Deputy Commissioner of Homeland Security. He served in the U.S. Navy Special Forces in Vietnam, and holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Chadwick University in Birmingham, Alabama.

Director Lloyd's family includes his wife, Tammy, son, Clint, and daughters, Heather and Katie.

Please take time to welcome Director Lloyd to the Cobb County Department of Public Safety family!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
by Lt. Jeff Moss

*It's that time again to field some of the questions you have submitted. I appreciate your interest, and hope you keep them coming! With some help from Chief Denlinger, Deputy Chief Heaton, and Dale Hutson, I hope I was able to clear up some issues many of you have raised. Please continue to keep this open line of communication going. Any inquiries may be sent to me at Station 23 "A" Shift. We really appreciate your questions! And please remember, I am just the messenger, not the message!*

Q1: Is the County actively trying to stop future annexation of county property by the incorporated cities? How can they continue to annex if they cannot provide the same level of protection/service?  
A1: Annexation is driven by state law and the County has no control. In many cases, if an area belonging to the County is surrounded by a city on all sides, the city can choose whether or not to annex it. If a city wishes to annex an adjacent area, then it must propose that to the residents in that affected area. Zoning possibilities are often more attractive to developers if a city annexes a targeted area. This is a very complex issue, as is the

question of various service deliveries. For more information, contact Community Development.

Q2: Are there any plans for a Special Operations Chief in the future?  
A2: It is "under discussion."  
  
Q3: What is the criteria for the placement of the new apparatus?  
A3: The main focus will be to replace those apparatus with the worst maintenance records and those that are at the end of their useful service life first. It will not necessarily be the apparatus with the highest mileage or the busiest trucks. Some apparatus may be reassigned. This plan will also provide the department with a better reserve fleet.

Q4: How will Engine 17 be used in an ALS capacity?  
A4: Engine 17 is a pilot program which is being studied carefully. The biggest question so far is how to use Engine 17 in the CAD system and on run cards. CAD has not been officially changed yet because the full impact of the program is still being determined.

This is a work in progress, and any input is welcomed and should be directed to Capt. Chuck Baird. At the present time, the decision to run an ALS call in a surrounding territory is left up to the discretion of the Officer in Charge of Engine 17.

Q5: Does the Department plan to add additional ALS engines to areas that are in need of faster ALS response?  
A5: It all depends on the success of the pilot program at Station 17. It will take some time to analyze its effect and make decisions on any future additions.  
  
Q6: Is there any truth to the rumor about a rescue truck at Station 11?  
A6: The possibility is "very likely", but is still being investigated.

HOSES SOAK THE GUNS!

The annual pigskin classic in March brought a respectable crowd to Kennesaw Mountain High School, much needed funds to 3 worthy charities, and a 14-6 victory to the Cobb Firestorm over the Cobb Enforcers.

The following CCFES personnel participated in the game:

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Karsten Green   | Frank Adams      |
| Reggie Jenkins  | Stoney Bowles    |
| Terrance Roy    | Michael Butler   |
| Dana Atkinson   | Kyle Williams    |
| Marquisse Scott | Jeff Moss        |
| Brian Patterson | Daniel Frost     |
| Ryan Gillen     | Ron Knight       |
| Jason Fox       | Tim Ethridge     |
| David Callaway  | Jeremy Towns     |
| Terrell Kinlaw  | Felecio McDowell |
| Buck Fowles     | Marcus Cromartie |
| Rich Stone      | Mike Wiczorek    |
| Phillip Wilbur  | Charlie Zellers  |
| Robert Rodgers  | Kevin Lewis      |
| Chris Boggs     | Keith Schneider  |
| Tom Hancock     | Tracey McCluskey |
| Adam Storey     | Walt Clark       |
| James O'Shields | Jody Cochran     |
| Steve Bentley   | Jason Jones      |
| Brad Zieminick  | Brian Bartlett   |
| Ian Martin      | Matt Johnson     |
| Matt Ereddia    | Brandon Grimes   |
| Russell Wright  | Roby Wilbur      |

The annual baseball game will be held at Marietta High School August 8 and 9.



The pigskin classic trophy is displayed proudly in the Fire Administration Headquarters lobby.



**CRITICAL INCIDENT  
STRESS  
MANAGEMENT**

You may see pamphlets distributed throughout the Department dealing with Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). There is also a section in the new CCFES Policy & Procedure Manual on the subject scheduled for distribution. Cobb Fire is aware of stressors and incidents on and off duty that may adversely impact your health and well-being, and wants to assist personnel in any way possible to minimize or alleviate the harmful effects that stress on and off the job may cause.

**Included in these publications is some information that may help you during your career:**

Critical Incident Stress will affect 9 out of 10 people in the emergency services profession at some point in their careers. Realize that there are people out there who want to help; All you have to do is recognize you are feeling that stress, and don't be afraid to ask for help! Please realize that it's not unusual; You are a normal person having very normal reactions to an abnormal situation!

**When exposed to a stressful or traumatic incident, there are effective ways to respond:**

Excercise; Alternate periods of relaxation with moderate excercise. Do whatever relaxes you or that you enjoy when you employ this technique.  
Schedule your time; Stay busy whenever possible, keeping as normal a schedule as you can.  
Keep in mind what you are feeling and experiencing is perfectly normal.  
Talk to people; Discussion is the best medicine.  
Avoid alcohol and drug use at all costs, unless prescribed and monitored by a licensed physician.  
Spend time with others; Don't isolate yourself.  
Help co-workers by sharing your feelings; Helping others going through the same experience can be therapeutic.  
Keep a journal; When you can't sleep, write during those sleepless nights.  
Realize that others around you may also be under the same stress.  
Don't make any major life changes.  
Get plenty of rest.  
Eat regular and well-balanced meals.  
Make as many normal daily decisions as possible; This helps you maintain control of your life.

**Ways for family members and friends to assist others with stress reactions:**

Listen carefully to what they have to say; There may be subtle hints in things said that are not obvious.  
Spend time with the traumatized individual.  
Offer assistance and lend an ear, even if they have not specifically asked for help; Help out with everyday tasks and chores.  
Give them some private time when appropriate.  
Don't take their anger or unusual feelings, comments, or actions personally.  
Reassure them that they are safe; Give them that safe haven!  
Don't tell them they are "lucky it wasn't worse", or statements to that effect.  
Convey your understanding and willingness to help them.

**Signs and Symptoms:**

<i>Physical</i>	<i>Cognitive</i>
Chills	Confusion
Thirst	Nightmares
Fatigue	Poor Memory
Nausea	Paranoia
Vomiting	Blaming Others
Fainting	Poor Problem Solving
Headaches	Poor Attention
Chest Pains	Time Disorientation
	Poor Decision Making
<i>Emotional</i>	<i>Behavioral</i>
Fear	Withdrawal
Guilt	Antisocial Acts
Grief	Inability to Rest & Sleep
Panic Attacks	Loss of Appetite
Outbursts	Increased Use of Alcohol & Drug Use

Georgia Crisis Line (678) 583-3560

*If you experience any of these symptoms, please call a member of the CISM Team. We are here to help!*

*Many thanks to Michelle Ice and Melissa Larson for their work on the CISM pamphlet!*